

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria
SUBJECT Uranium Mining

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1. The uranium area in Bulgaria runs through Bukhovo (N 42-46, E 23-34), Churek (N 42-46, E 23-43), and Batulia (N 42-54, E 23-25), and prospecting is being continued for additional deposits in this area.
2. Exploitation of uranium mines near Seslavtsi village (N 42-47, E 23-31), approximately five kilometers northwest of Bukhovo, has begun next to a point 1198 meters above sea level.
3. In October 1953 new deposits of uranium were discovered in the center of the town of Botevgrad (N 42-54, E 23-47) at the highest point called the "Little Villas." Squads of Trudovaks have been seen working at this spot, and residents of the area were ordered to move to other quarters. Part of the machinery stationed at Bukhovo is being transferred to Botevgrad, and a large team of Soviet engineers and technicians has arrived at Botevgrad.
4. Surveying is in progress for a railway line between Botevgrad and Gara Yana (N 42-44, E 23-34). Since 1946 Gara Yana, located about 20 kilometers east of Sofia, has been known as the traffic hub for consignments of raw materials, and later particularly of uranium ores, destined for the Soviet Union. The railroad station is located about 700 to 800 meters from the village. Next to the station is a factory for chemicals and soap. On the opposite side of the Sofia-Botevgrad highway there are some concrete buildings and pylons for high voltage current, probably a small power station or a transformer station. Though Gara Yana is the station for only a village, it has large warehouses and four tracks. About 550-600 red brick buildings have been erected at the village, contrasting sharply with the typical Bulgarian mud structures. Here are also the typical long, low structures of the Sovholstroil company.

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5. Some time ago uranium was found near Bachkovski Manastir (Bachkovo Monastery) (N 41-56, E 24-51), about 7-10 kilometers south of Asenovgrad (N 41-59, E 24-52). In contrast to the general inner demarcation line of the Greek border region, which runs about 40 to 50 kilometers from the border, the line suddenly swerves northward near Bachkovo (N 41-57, E 24-51), thus including the monastery and its environs in the frontier zone.

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